United Nations TD/B/65(1)/L.1/Add.5

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: Limited
26 June 2018

Original: English

Trade and Development Board
Sixty-fifth session, part I
Geneva, 4–8 and 25 and 26 June 2018

Draft report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-fifth session, part I

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 4 to 8 and 25 and 26 June 2018

Addendum

Contents

	Page
President's summary	2
Activities of UNCTAD in support of small island developing States and in support of landlocked developing countries	2

GE.18-10451(E)
1810451

Please recycle

President's summary

Activities of UNCTAD in support of small island developing States and in support of landlocked developing countries

(Agenda item 8)

1. Under the agenda item, the Director of the UNCTAD Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes highlighted growing awareness and political will to address the challenges of landlocked developing countries. He expressed concern that the weak economic performance of landlocked developing countries since the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 put their ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at risk. The UNCTAD secretariat then provided an overview of its activities in support of landlocked developing countries.

2. The representatives of several regional groups and some delegates noted the continuing challenges faced by landlocked developing countries, and the need for greater efforts in trade and transport facilitation, building productive capacities and achieving structural transformation. One regional group expressed concern at the recent slowdown in growth of landlocked developing countries, while another regional group noted the declining share of official development assistance and foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries. Another regional group highlighted its assistance measures for landlocked developing countries, through official development assistance and market access, and emphasized the importance of improved cooperation to strengthen regional value chains in landlocked developing countries. The representative of another regional group noted that the work of UNCTAD on developing a productive capacities index was fundamental for landlocked developing countries. He requested the secretariat to also provide more disaggregated data on assistance delivered only to landlocked developing countries. One delegate requested UNCTAD to take into account the challenges facing transit countries in its work on transport facilitation. Another delegate requested UNCTAD to strengthen its programme on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

3. Several regional groups and some delegates expressed appreciation for the work of UNCTAD in support of the landlocked developing countries and the report presented. Some regional groups and one delegate called on UNCTAD to provide substantive support to the midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action. Several regional groups and one delegate further called on member States to provide greater support to the work of UNCTAD on landlocked developing countries. One regional group and one delegate requested that, within UNCTAD, the Landlocked Developing Countries Section be strengthened, through greater resources allocation. Furthermore, the representative of the regional group called for enhanced interdivisional cooperation on landlocked developing countries. Another delegate inquired about the resources currently allocated to landlocked developing countries in UNCTAD, and how much was required for UNCTAD to be fully enabled to implement its mandate on landlocked developing countries. The UNCTAD secretariat took note of the request for further information on resources, agreeing on the importance of the issue, which would be discussed during an appropriate forum.